

Live-Aboard Boating in Oregon: Complying with the Laws

Requirements	Consequences for non-compliance	Resources
Location: Boat must be in an authorized location.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Live-aboard boats should stay in marinas or other authorized moorages	Boats left on public or private property without authorization are <i>abandoned</i> and may be seized if not moved to an authorized location.	Call Department of State Lands: 503-986-5200 or visit their website: http://www.oregon.gov/dsl
<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Duration Use allows for the temporary or infrequent use of state owned waterways, with no long term or extended use intended. Dwellings on state-owned waterways require a lease from the Department of State Lands.	Dwellings on state-owned waterways require a lease. As of January 1, 2017, “Limited Duration Use” (formerly Transient Use) is allowed without authorization. “Limited Duration Use” means any temporary or infrequent use of state-owned waterways, with no long-term or extended use intended . If long-term use is intended, a lease is required. Use without authorization constitutes trespass.	
Ownership records: Boat must have current Oregon registration		
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat owner must obtain a certificate of title	\$100 fine	Apply online: https://apps3.oregon.gov/application/osmb/elicense/ Or call 503-378-8587
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat owner must apply for a boat number	\$160 fine	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of registration must be carried on the boat	\$110 fine	
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat must properly display the assigned number and validation sticker	\$160 fine	
Boat condition: Boat must not be “derelict”		
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat interior must not be exposed to the weather and hull must not have holes that put the boat in danger of sinking	Derelict boats can be seized and destroyed. The boat owner will be responsible for all seizure and disposal costs. In addition to the boat seizure, discharge of oil, sewage, and other pollutants can result in fines and civil penalties.	Learn how to be a “clean boater”: http://www.oregon.gov/osmb/clean/pages/clean_boater_program.aspx
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat must be securely moored or anchored so that it is not at risk of becoming adrift		
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat must not be leaking or discharging fuel, sewage, or other pollutants		
Safety Equipment: Boat must have required safety equipment on board		
<input type="checkbox"/> Anchor light at night (boats longer than 23 feet and all boats near navigation channels)	\$260 fine	Experience Oregon Boating handbook or www.boatoregon.gov
<input type="checkbox"/> A readily accessible, properly fitting life jacket for each person	\$260 fine	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sound-producing device on boat	\$110 fine	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire extinguisher(s) on boat	\$160 fine	
Sewage and Trash: Nothing in the water! Discharge of sewage or disposal of trash may be subject to civil penalties and criminal citations.		

Living on your boat

Your Rights

Recreation on State-Owned Waterways

On state-owned waterways, you may use the waterway for any legal, recreational purpose as you would a park.

Living Aboard

Floating homes, live-aboard boats, and dwellings occupying state-owned waterways require a lease from the Department of State Lands.

An exception is made for “Limited Duration Use” (formerly “Transient Use”) of state-owned waterways to support the public’s rights to use the waterway for recreational purposes. Limited Duration Use is defined as any temporary or infrequent use of state-owned waterways, **with no long-term or extended use intended**.

Live-aboard boats or dwellings are not considered a “Limited Duration Use” because the use is not infrequent, and long-term or extended use *is* intended.

Mooring on Public Docks

Most local jurisdictions do not allow permanent moorage on docks that are managed by local governments and public agencies. There is a variety of rules for overnight moorage at each dock. **Contact your local government for additional information.**

Options/Resources

If you plan to live on your boat, your best option is to find a marina or other authorized moorage that accepts live-aboard boats. Marinas set their own rules and do not have to allow live-aboard boats. Marinas that do accept live-aboard boats may have strict rules as part of their moorage agreements such as requiring boat insurance, requirements for boats to move under their own power, prohibitions on the discharge of treated sewage (discharge of untreated sewage is always illegal), and prohibitions on maintenance work in the marina.

The back side of this brochure includes a checklist to help you stay in compliance with the laws. In addition, the following agencies are available to help you have a safe and legal living experience on the water:

Department of State Lands

- Leasing requirements and waterway enforcement
- www.oregon.gov/dsl; 503-986-5200

State Marine Board

- Register and title your boat
www.boatoregon.com; 503-378-8587

Department of Environmental Quality

- Environmental Complaints
www.deq.state.or.us/complaints/
1-888-997-7888

Housing Assistance Information

- Dial 211

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A guide to your rights and state resources

